



# NEWS

## United States Consulate General

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **U.S. Consulate General Curaçao Expands Visa Services**

The United States Department of State is committed to facilitating legitimate travel for international visitors by issuing visas to qualified applicants. We are working harder than ever to provide better customer service and facilitate travel to the United States for the purposes of business, tourism, and higher education.

The U.S. Consulate General Curaçao is pleased to announce new policies for non-immigrant visa (NIV) applicants, effective immediately.

Previously, the U.S. Consulate General only accepted applications from NIV applicants who hold a Dutch passport or are renewing a multiple-entry visa.

Effective today, the U.S. Consulate General will expand its visa services in Curaçao to include:

- Applicants who have been legally resident in Curaçao, Aruba, Sint Maarten, Bonaire, St. Eustatius, or Saba for at least ten years. *Applicants must bring proof of legal residency in the Dutch Caribbean to their visa interview.*
- Legal residents of the islands, regardless of their length of residency, who are applying for student and exchange visitor visas: F visas (degree-granting schools), J visas (exchange visitor programs), or M visas (vocational schools).
- Children under the age of 18 whose parent(s) have a valid multiple-entry U.S. visa.

The U.S. Consulate General Curaçao interviews applicants for visas every Tuesday morning. Applicants can make their visa appointment at no charge on the Consulate's visa appointment system after they have completed their online application (link available on the Consulate's website).

Each applicant, including minors, must have a separate application and pay an application fee. Applicants under the age of 14 do not need to appear for a visa interview and can be represented by their parent or legal guardian.

Applicants who do not meet the new requirements above; are first-time visa applicants with less than 10 years of residency; or are applying for an E, H, or L visa (regardless of

citizenship or previous visas) must apply at the consular section of another U.S. Embassy or Consulate worldwide. Applicants are no longer required to apply in Caracas, and can choose from convenient locations including, but not limited to, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Please refer to the U.S. Consulate General's website for additional information, links to the online application and visa appointment system, and complete visa application procedures: <http://curacao.usconsulate.gov>.

**\*\*NOTICE TO PRESS\*\***

The Vice Consul of the United States is available for on-the-record media interviews about the new visa policies. Please contact Willem Remie at 461-3066 ext. 2240 if you would like to request an interview.

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